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At Marian Hall Feb. 17

Lecture, Film Set On Gravity Line

The Carbondale Historical Society and St. Joseph's Hospital, Carbondale, will present an illustrated lecture on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co.'s Gravity Railroad on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Marian Hall Auditorium.

The presentation is similar to the program presented during the 1982 Pioneer Days festivities in August. Speakers for the presentation will be Cy Grosvenor, John V. Buberniak, S. Robert Powell and Robert J. Tomaine, all members of the Historical Society. The program will conclude with the screening of the film, "The Canawler," a film devoted to the history of the Delaware and Hudson Canal.

The D&H Canal Co.'s Gravity Railroad was the third constructed in the Western Hemisphere. On its first day of operation, Oct. 9, 1829, the first carload of coal was shipped from Carbondale to Honesdale.

The railroad's route was extended twice – the first time in 1847 south to Archbald, and the second time in 1858 when it reached Valley Junction. A year later, passenger service was instituted on the line.

On Oct. 29, 1898, the D&H announced that the last train would travel the road on Dec. 31 of the same year. On Jan. 3 of the following year, several loads of coal that had accumulated along the line were run off and more than 4,600 coal cars were moved to convenient locations for disposal. On Jan. 4, 1899, the fires of the stationary engines at the heads of the planes were shut down, and the Gravity Railroad was no more.

This information program will be open to the general public and there will be no admission charge. All who wish to attend the program are invited. Refreshments will be available following the program.